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Letter dated 23 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 22 September 2003 by the presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on recent developments in Côte d'Ivoire (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 23 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 22 September 2003 by the presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on recent developments in Côte d'Ivoire

The European Union (EU) resolutely condemns any attempt to make direct or indirect use of violence in the political process in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as any threats to law and order and stability in the country. The EU confirms its full confidence in and support for the national reconciliation process, based on the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreements.

The EU welcomes the fact that the Government of national reconciliation is now complete and encourages that Government to continue down the path to the reunification of Côte d'Ivoire without delay. As a matter of urgency, the opposing armed forces must be confined, disarmament must take place and the administration must be re-established throughout the national territory. The implementation of the reforms envisaged by the Marcoussis Agreements must lead a unified and cohesive Côte d'Ivoire to credible, transparent and open elections in 2005.

The EU encourages the President of the Republic to continue on the path of reconciliation and the strengthening of democracy with a view to the organization of the elections in 2005.

The EU encourages the Prime Minister in his practical steps to make governmental action for the reconciliation and rehabilitation of the country more effective.

The EU urges all parties, and especially the new forces, to overcome any distrust and to commit themselves in a constructive manner to pursuing the major objectives of the construction of democracy and the recovery of the country's economy.

The EU invites the constitutional parties, and all the political and social forces in the country, to commit themselves without reservation to constructive action to re-establish confidence and strengthen the national reconciliation process.

The European Union welcomes the reopening of the border with Burkina Faso as a prelude to the re-establishment of rail traffic between the two countries.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the associated countries, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.